

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 2, 2008. Claims 1-13 have been amended above. New claims 14-18 have been added above. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by way of these claim amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and favorable action on all remaining claims in view of these amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 2-4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 2 due to minor informalities. Claim 2 has been amended above consistent with the Examiner's instructions. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 9-13 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Claims 9-13 have been amended above to remove all multiple dependencies. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-13 are now in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being an improper recitation of a use. Claims 10-13 have been amended above to remove the recitation of a use. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-13 are now in condition for allowance and request that the section 101 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1, 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,018,506 to Danna et al. ("Danna"). Applicant respectfully traverses these claim rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended above to require, *inter alia*, that "depressurization of the hollow body results in linear deflection of the compression member." Applicant respectfully submits that Danna fails to disclose this claim limitation. In contrast, Danna discloses that "[f]or any particular degree of bending, the bending neck 11 *assumes a smooth arcuate curve...*" Danna, col. 4, ll. 58-60 (emphasis added). At no point does the disclosure of Danna contemplate a bending neck exhibiting *linear deflection* as claimed in amended claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 distinguishes over Danna.

Claims 5-8 each depend from, and further restrict, independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least those reasons set forth with regard to independent claim 1, claims 5-8 also distinguish over Danna.

New Claims

New claim 14 contains all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. The combination of claims 1 and 2 was previously indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 15-18 each depend from, and further restrict, independent claim 14 in a patentable sense. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that, for the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 14, claims 15-18 are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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